



# UB Highlights

Vol. 14, No. 8

News & Events for May 1-15, 2017

## Commencement Ceremonies

**Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m.-12:45 p.m.**

Nearly 1,500 undergraduate and graduate degrees will be conferred upon candidates from the School of Arts & Sciences, Ernest C. Trefz School of Business, School of Education, School of Engineering, Shintaro Akatsu School of Design, College of Public and International Affairs, School of Nursing, and Fones School of Dental Hygiene in the Webster Bank Arena. For more information visit [commencement.bridgeport.edu](http://commencement.bridgeport.edu).

**Sunday, May 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Graduate degrees will be conferred upon Health Sciences candidates from the Acupuncture Institute, Fones School of Dental Hygiene, Nutrition Institute, Physician Assistant Institute, College of Chiropractic, and College of Naturopathic Medicine in the Mertens Theater of the Bernhard Center. Please visit [commencement.bridgeport.edu](http://commencement.bridgeport.edu) for more information.



## Honors Convocations

**Wednesday, May 3, 5-7 p.m.**

The School of Nursing Pinning Ceremony for first 7 graduates of UB's RN to BSN Program will be held in the Littlefield Recital Hall of Bernhard Center, followed by a reception in Schelfhaudt Gallery (by invitation).

**Friday, May 5, All Day**

An Alumni and Honors Reception will be held from noon to 6 p.m. in the Schelfhaudt Gallery of the Bernhard Center for all graduation candidates and their guests.

**10 a.m.-noon:** Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Induction, Mertens Theater, Bernhard Center (by invitation)

**12:30-2:30 p.m.:** Honors Convocation, School of Arts and Sciences, Littlefield Recital Hall, Bernhard Center

**1-3 p.m.:** Honors Convocation, College of Public and International Affairs, Mertens Theater, Bernhard Center

**1:30-3 p.m.:** Honors Convocation and Delta Mu Delta Induction, Ernest C. Trefz School of Business, duPont Tower Room, Bernhard Center

**4-5:30 p.m.:** Pinning Ceremony, Fones School of Dental Hygiene, Mertens Theater, Bernhard Center.



## Information Sessions

Register online and find more information about the following sessions in the Events section at [www.bridgeport.edu](http://www.bridgeport.edu):

### Acupuncture Institute

UB Clinic, Room 301 Health Sciences Center:

**Wednesday, May 3, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

Includes Acupuncture, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Chinese Herbology, Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine graduate programs

### Education

Waterbury Center, 84 Progress Lane: **Wednesday, May 3, 6-7 p.m.**

### Physician Assistant Institute

Bridgeport, 6th Floor, Wahlstrom Library: **Tuesday, May 9, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

## Purple Knights Home Athletic Events May 1-15, 2017

### Baseball

**May 2 (Tues.), 3 p.m., Bloomfield @ Harbor Yard**

**May 3 (Weds.), 3 p.m., Mercy @ Harbor Yard**

**May 4 (Thurs.), 3 p.m., Queens @ Harbor Yard**

**May 7 (Sun.), 6 p.m., Queens @ Harbor Yard**

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

### UNDERGRADUATE/GRADUATE

**Last Day of Classes, Friday, April 28**

**Final Examination Week, Monday-Friday, May 1-5**

**Commencement, Saturday, May 6**

**Final Grades Due, Monday, May 8**

### HEALTH SCIENCES

**Last Day of Classes, Friday, May 12**

**Final Examination Week, Monday-Friday, May 15-19**

**Commencement, Sunday, May 7**

**Final Grades Due, Monday, May 22**

# UB Giving Day

Wednesday, May 17, 24 Hours

Trustee **Tom O'Hara '84** and his wife, **Sue O'Hara '84**, are challenging the UB community. For every person who makes a gift of any amount on May 17, the O'Haras will give \$20, up to \$5,000. The goal is to reach 250 donors by midnight on May 17. Mark your calendars! Let's celebrate UB! Share our posts on social media using #UBgiving. You may donate by visiting the webpage at [bridgeport.edu/givingday](http://bridgeport.edu/givingday). For more information, contact **Arielle Purcell**, [apurcell@bridgeport.edu](mailto:apurcell@bridgeport.edu), or 203-576-4542.

## International Entrepreneurs

Professors **Timothy Raynor** and **Elena Cahill** of the Trefz School of Business offered a trip to a rural coffee farming community in Costa Rica this semester as part of their MGMT 321 course, International Entrepreneurship. Eighteen students traveled south and conducted a needs assessment of ASOPROLA, a sustainable coffee growing community. During the discovery process the community indicated that they wanted to start roasting their own coffee. Approximately 80% of their coffee is sold green (unroasted), meaning that their margins are low and the commodity market controls the price. The regional government has a rural development grant program and would consider buying a coffee roaster for ASOPROLA, but a business plan was needed for the grant request, and the local people did not know how to write one.

Our students conducted a market analysis and drafted a business plan, which had to be submitted in Spanish to ASOPROLA no later than April 20. Once the regional government provides the roaster, our students will help ASOPROLA implement the business plan strategy.

During their work the students identified two additional stakeholders in the community that could use their technical knowledge: a local women's entrepreneurial group that needs a web design and is developing a jobs growth program, and a group of young men trying to organize a tourist bureau.

Prof. Raynor anticipates that this project will continue for at least the next two years. **Christian Hernandez**, one of UB's student-entrepreneurs who visited Costa Rica, said that working with ASOPROLA was "the best experience of my life!"

## Faculty Research Day Awards

The Seventh Faculty Research Day, held on March 24, 2017, featured 174 research projects displayed on posters in the Schelfhault Gallery of the Bernhard Center, from the Schools of Arts & Sciences, Education, and Engineering; the Health Sciences; the College of Public and International Affairs; the Ernest C. Trefz School of Business; and the Shintaro Akatsu School of Design. The poster session was streamed live from 9 to 11:15 a.m. along with the keynote address by Dr. **Donald H. Sebastian**, of the New Jersey Innovation Institute. Of the 538 total views, 46% were from Saudi Arabia, followed by 37% from places in the U.S.

### Undergraduate Student Poster Winners

- 1st Place: **Nicole Valentine**, Arts & Sciences, "Determining Stress Tolerance of *H. dujardini* Subjected to Extreme Conditions," **Kathleen Engelmann**, advisor
- 2nd Place: **Veronica Celone**, Arts & Sciences, "The Effectiveness of Current Urinalysis Reflex Criteria on Urine Cultures," **Kathleen Engelmann**, advisor
- 3rd Place: **Priscilla Mathew**, Dental Hygiene, "Exploring Contributing Factors to Oral Health Disparities Seen among Adult Immigrants," **Sandra Stramoski**, advisor
- Honorable Mention: **Justin Collado**, SASD, "Smart Inhaler: A Modern Medical Device," **Richard Yelle**, advisor

### Graduate Student Poster Winners

- 1st Place: **Shrishti Singh**, Engineering, "Study of Interactions between Single Walled Carbon Nanotubes and a Flagellin-Specific Library of Tripeptides," **Prabir Patra** and **Isaac Macwan**, advisors
- 2nd Place: **Evelyn Perez Maldonado**, Business, "2017 Super Bowl LI Best Marketing Trends," **Nikki Wingate**, advisor
- 3rd Place: **Akhilesh Borgaonkar**, Engineering, "Trends Analysis of Vehicle Collisions Using Hadoop and Spark," **Jeongkyu Lee**, advisor
- Honorable Mention: **Samuel Ojetola**, Engineering, "Modelling and Mitigation of Switching Transients from Inductive Load," **Michael Omidiora**, advisor
- Honorable Mention: **Oluwatosiin Akegbejo Samsons**, CPIA, "Impact of Microcredit on the Poor in Sierra Leone," **Robert Riggs**, advisor

# UB ACHIEVEMENTS & HONORS

## STUDENTS & ALUMNI

### BUSINESS

*Baatarjav Dashtseren* and *Trang Thi Huynh Nguyen*, both MBA students enrolled in Business Communications (BUAD 400), composing Team ZZ942, finished in first place in the Spring 2017 Connecticut Stock Market Game, which ended April 14. They were ahead of their nearest competitor by nearly \$3,000 and outperformed the S&P 500 by 1%, the only team to do so. The students were advised by Professor *Steven Rashba*.

### COUNSELING

On March 30, 26 undergraduate psychology students representing the top of their class academically were inducted into the UB chapter of Psi Chi, the international psychology honor society. *Saul Almazan* and *Ryan Wirtemburg* are president and vice-president, respectively, of the chapter. Advisors are Professors *Jessica Nelson* and *David Oberleitner*.

### ENGINEERING

*Wafa Elmannai*, *Eugene Gerety*, and *Reem Mahjoub*, all doctoral candidates, have won all three prizes offered in the 25th annual Connecticut Symposium on Microelectronics & Optoelectronics (CMOC) for their research involving sensors, image processing, and other technologies. They competed with 35 entries, from engineering schools throughout the state. Elmannai designed a platform to assist visually impaired persons with obstacle detection and avoidance and navigation. Gerety, who also holds bachelor's and master's degrees from UB, designed a less limited type of 2D bar code. Mahjoub's research optimized the performance of mobile robots. For details, visit "UB News" at [bridgeport.edu](http://bridgeport.edu).

### SASD

*Kristopher Fuji*, *Diana Inga*, and *David Jurado*, Industrial Design students, won second (\$2,500), third (\$1,250), and fourth (\$1,250) places, respectively, at the "Designs for Safety" competition at the New York auto show. Fuji designed a crossing guard drone, "Bus Buddy." Inga's "Black Ice Drone" located black ice on roadways and melted it with eco-friendly salt water solutions. Jurado's "Pneumatic Rumble," was a device for curtailing speeding. For more information, read "UB News" at [bridgeport.edu](http://bridgeport.edu).

## FACULTY & STAFF

### DENTAL HYGIENE

*Sandra Stramoski*, assistant professor, presented two education sessions at the American Dental Education Association Annual Session in March: "Teaching Across Boundaries of Anatomical and Radiological Sciences: A Classroom Activity to Bridge the 'Knowledge Gap'" and "Faculty Development through an Interprofessional Clinical Educators' Workshop."

### GLOBAL LEARNING INITIATIVES

*Tara Maroney* was selected as one of ten people internationally to participate in the Emerging Leaders Program through NACADA, the Global Community for Academic Advising. Tara will be paired with a mentor to further develop the skills, experience, and knowledge needed to advance her into various leadership positions in the areas of research, publications, and presentations.

## University Registrar

*Lori Grasso* was appointed interim University Registrar on April 10 while a full search begins for a permanent registrar. The search is expected to conclude this summer. Registrar *Christian Hansen* announced his resignation effective April 28 and plans to return to his home state of Maine. Lori Grasso joined UB in 2009 and has been serving as the assistant director of student employment.

**Did we miss something?** *UB Highlights* is published twice monthly during the academic year and monthly in January, June, and July to inform the University community about UB events and achievements. To comment or to list your event or award, e-mail [Rebecca Salonen](mailto:Rebecca.Salonen@bridgeport.edu), [UBHighlights@bridgeport.edu](mailto:UBHighlights@bridgeport.edu), or call x4988.